AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An information providing system, comprising:

an information providing apparatus adapted to provide information via a network, and

an information reproducing apparatus which has access to the information providing apparatus via the network and has an information reproducing device adapted to reproduce program information recorded on a recording medium, wherein the information reproducing apparatus comprises:

a memory,

an identification information acquiring device which acquires identification information corresponding to the program information recorded on the recording medium,

an identification information transmitting device which transmits the acquired identification information to the information providing apparatus via the network when the program information recorded on the recording medium is reproduced ~~but does not transmit the identification information if the related information corresponding to identification information of the program information is already stored in the memory~~,

a related information receiving device which receives related information composed of at least any one of accompanied information related to the program information and advertisement information related to the program information or the accompanied information via the network, the related information being

transmitted from the information providing apparatus according to the identification information,

a related information storing device which stores in the memory both the related information received from the information providing apparatus and the identification information, and

a user presenting device which presents the related information to a user when the program information is reproduced, and

the information providing apparatus comprises:

an identification information receiving device which receives the identification information transmitted from the information reproducing apparatus via the network,

a related information acquiring device which acquires the related information composed of at least any one of the accompanied information and the advertisement information based on the identification information, and

a related information transmitting device which transmits the related information to the information reproducing apparatus via the network if the identification information was received by the identification information receiving device; and

wherein the information reproducing apparatus further comprises a presentation permission request information transmitting device which transmits presentation permission request information to the information providing apparatus via the network if the related information corresponding to identification information of the program information is already stored in the

memory, the presentation permission request information including the identification information; and

the information providing apparatus further comprises:

a presentation permission request information receiving device which [[is]] receives the presentation permission request information transmitted from the information reproducing apparatus via the network,

a presentation permission deciding device which [[is]] decides whether or not presentation of the related information should be permitted based on the presentation permission request information, and

a related information update deciding device which decides whether or not the related information corresponding to the received identification information is updated if it is decided by the presentation permission deciding device that the presentation should be permitted, and

a presentation permission information transmitting device which transmits the presentation permission information to the information reproducing apparatus via the network unless it is decided by the related information update deciding device that the related information is updated ~~if it is decided by the presentation permission deciding device that the presentation should be permitted~~,

wherein the presentation permission information transmitting device transmits updated related information together with the presentation permission information to the information reproducing apparatus via the

network if it is decided by the related information update deciding device that the related information is updated,

wherein the information reproducing apparatus is adapted such that if the presentation permission information is received from the information providing apparatus then the user presenting device reads from the memory the related information corresponding to the received presentation permission information and presents the related information to the user, and

if the updated related information together with the presentation permission information is received from the information providing apparatus then the user presenting device presents the updated related information instead of the related information stored in the memory to the user.

2. (original) The information providing system according to claim 1, wherein the information reproducing apparatus comprises an information recording device which reproduces the program information recorded on the recording medium and records the program information on another recording medium.

3. (original) The information providing system according to claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a detachable recording medium occupied by the user.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (original) The information providing system according to claim 1, wherein the information reproducing apparatus further comprises a selecting instruction receiving device which receives an instruction to select desired related information to be presented from the user, and the user presenting device presents the selected related information to the user when the program information is reproduced.

7. (original) The information providing system according to claim 1, wherein the information providing apparatus further comprises a related information selecting device which selects related information to be acquired or transmitted according to the identification information, and the related information transmitting device transmits the related information selected by the related information selecting device to the information reproducing apparatus.

8. (original) The information providing system according to claim 1, wherein the information providing apparatus further comprises a user information managing device which manages user information for each user of the information reproducing apparatus, the user information managing device updates the user information based on the identification information every time the identification information is transmitted from the information reproducing apparatus, and the related information acquiring device acquires the advertisement information matching with the user information.

9. (currently amended) The information providing system according to claim 1, wherein the user presenting device displays the accompanied information and the advertisement information on a [[the]] same screen thereby presenting the accompanied information and the advertisement information to the user.

10. (original) The information providing system according to claim 1, wherein the accompanied information includes at least any one piece of data about a jacket photograph stored in a package of the recording medium, a photograph printed on a booklet, lyrics, a liner note, music information, artist information, and label information.

11. (currently amended) The information providing system according to claim 1, wherein

the information providing apparatus is constituted of an information providing service server and a contents server,

the information providing service server comprises the identification information receiving device and transmits the identification information received by the identification information receiving device to the contents server via a communication means,

the contents server comprises

the related information acquiring device,

the related information transmitting device, and

a related information database adapted to store the related information and to receive the identification information transmitted from the information providing service server,

the related information acquiring device acquires the related information from the related information database based on the identification information, and

the related information transmitting device transmits the related information to the information reproducing/~~recording~~ apparatus ~~or the information reproducing/recording apparatus~~ via the network.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) The information providing system according to claim 1, wherein

the memory stores presentation permission confirming period information or presentation permission confirming due date information about the related information,

the information reproducing apparatus further comprises a transmission deciding device which decides whether or not the presentation permission request information should be transmitted to the information providing apparatus based on the presentation permission confirming period information or presentation permission confirming due date information, and

the presentation permission request information transmitting device transmits the presentation permission request information to the information providing apparatus via

the network if it is decided that the presentation permission request information should be transmitted to the information providing apparatus.

14. (original) The information providing system according to claim 13, wherein the presentation permission confirming period information or presentation permission confirming due date information is attached to the related information and is transmitted from the information providing apparatus.

15. (canceled)

16. (original) The information providing system according to claim 15, wherein the information reproducing apparatus further comprises a related information updating device which updates related information stored in the memory to the updated related information.

17. (currently amended) The information providing system according to claim 1, wherein

the presentation permission deciding device decides again whether or not presentation of the related information should be permitted after it is decided that presentation of the related information should be permitted,

the presentation permission information transmitting device transmits cancellation information to the information reproducing apparatus via the network if it is decided that the presentation should not be permitted, [[,]] and

[[,]] in the information reproducing apparatus, if the cancellation information is received from the information providing apparatus the user presenting device stops presentation of the related information indicated in the cancellation information.

18. (previously presented) The information providing system according to claim 1, wherein the information providing apparatus further comprises an erasure information transmitting device which transmits erasure information indicating an instruction to erase the related information to the information reproducing apparatus via the network if the presentation permission deciding device decides that presentation should not be permitted, and the information reproducing apparatus comprises: an erasure information receiving device which receives the erasure information via the network when the erasure information is transmitted from the information providing apparatus, and a related information erasing device which erases related information to be erased from the memory, the related information being indicated by the erasure information.

19. (previously presented) The information providing system according to claim 1, wherein the presentation permission deciding device decides that presentation of the accompanied information should be permitted on condition that advertisement information of the related information is presented, when the presentation permission request information transmitted from the information reproducing apparatus requests permission to present only the accompanied information of the related information, the presentation permission information transmitting device includes the condition for

presenting the advertisement information into the presentation permission information and transmits the presentation permission information to the information reproducing apparatus via the network, and the user presenting device presents advertisement information corresponding to the presenting condition to the user together with the accompanied information corresponding to permission for presentation indicated by the presentation permission information when the program information is reproduced.

20. (canceled)

21. (original) The information providing system according to claim 20, wherein if the updated related information is not received in a predetermined time, the user presenting device reads the related information corresponding to the identification information from the memory and presents the related information to the user when the program information is reproduced.

22. (original) The information providing system according to claim 20, wherein the memory stores presentation permission confirming period information or presentation permission confirming due date information about the related information, the information reproducing apparatus further comprises a transmission deciding device which decides whether or not the identification information should be transmitted to the information providing apparatus based on the presentation permission confirming period information or presentation permission confirming due date information, and the identification information transmitting device transmits the identification information to

the information providing apparatus via the network if it is decided that the identification information should be transmitted to the information providing apparatus.

23. (original) The information providing system according to claim 22, wherein the presentation permission confirming period information or presentation permission confirming due date information is attached to the related information and is transmitted from the information providing apparatus.

24. (original) The information providing system according to claim 20, wherein the information reproducing apparatus further comprises a related information updating device which updates the related information stored in the memory to the updated related information.

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) An information reproducing apparatus connected to a network, the information reproducing apparatus comprising :

a memory,

an identification information acquiring device which acquires identification information corresponding to program information recorded on a recording medium,

~~a presentation permission request information transmitting device which transmits presentation permission request information to an information providing apparatus via the network;~~

an identification information transmitting device which transmits the acquired identification information to the information providing apparatus via the network when the program information recorded on the recording medium is reproduced ~~unless the related information corresponding to identification information of the program information is already stored in the memory~~,

a related information receiving device which receives related information composed of at least any one of accompanied information related to the program information and advertisement information related to the program information or the accompanied information via the network, the related information being transmitted from the information providing apparatus according to the identification information,

a related information storing device which stores in the memory both the related information received from the information providing apparatus and the identification information,

a user presenting device which presents the related information to a user when the program information is reproduced, and

wherein the identification information transmitting device transmits presentation permission request information to the information providing apparatus via the network if the related information corresponding to identification information of the program information is already stored in the memory, the presentation permission request information including the identification information; and

wherein the information reproducing apparatus is adapted such that if the presentation permission information is received from the information providing apparatus then the user presenting device reads from the memory the related information corresponding to the received presentation permission information and presents the related information to the user, and

if updated related information together with the presentation permission information is received from the information providing apparatus then the user presenting device presents the updated related information instead of the related information stored in the memory to the user.

28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) An information recorded medium wherein a program for a computer connected to a network is recorded so as to be read by the computer, the program configured to cause ~~makes~~ the computer to function as:

an identification information acquiring device which acquires identification information corresponding to the program information recorded on the recording medium;

an identification information transmitting device which transmits the acquired identification information to the information providing apparatus via the network when the program information recorded on the recording medium is reproduced;

a related information receiving device which receives related information composed of at least any one of accompanied information related to the program

information and advertisement information related to the program information or the accompanied information via the network, the related information being transmitted from the information providing apparatus according to the identification information;

a related information storing device which stores in a memory both the related information received from the information providing apparatus and the identification information; and

a user presenting device which presents the related information to a user when the program information is reproduced;

wherein the identification information transmitting device transmits presentation permission request information to the information providing apparatus via the network if the related information corresponding to identification information of the program information is already stored in the memory, the presentation permission request information including the identification information;

if the presentation permission information is received from the information providing apparatus then the user presenting device reads from the memory the related information corresponding to the received presentation permission information and presents the related information to the user; and

if the updated related information together with the presentation permission information is received from the information providing apparatus then the user presenting device presents the updated related information instead of the related information stored in the memory to the user.

~~the information reproducing apparatus according to claim 27.~~

30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) An information providing method in an information providing system comprising an information providing apparatus for providing information via a network, and an information reproducing apparatus which has ~~can have~~ access to the information providing apparatus via the network and has an information reproducing device for reproducing program information recorded on a recording medium, comprising the processes of:

acquiring identification information corresponding to the program information recorded on the recording medium in the information reproducing apparatus;

transmitting the acquired identification information from the information reproducing apparatus to the information providing apparatus via the network when the program information recorded on the recording medium is reproduced~~, unless related information composed of at least any one of accompanied information related to the program information and advertisement information associated with the identification information is already stored in a memory of the information reproducing apparatus~~;

receiving the identification information transmitted from the information reproducing apparatus via the network in the information providing apparatus;

acquiring related information composed of at least any one of accompanied information related to the program information and advertisement information related to the program information or the accompanied information based on the identification information in the information providing apparatus;

transmitting the related information from the information providing apparatus to the information reproducing apparatus via the network;

~~receiving related information composed of at least any one of accompanied information related the program information and advertisement information related the program information or the accompanied information via the network, the related information being transmitted from the information providing apparatus according to the identification information;~~

~~presenting the related information to a user when the program information is reproduced in the information reproducing apparatus;~~

~~receiving the identification information transmitted from the information reproducing apparatus via the network in the information providing apparatus;~~

~~acquiring the related information composed of at least any one of the accompanied information related to the program information and advertisement information related to the program information or the accompanied information based on the identification information in the information providing apparatus;~~

~~in response to receiving the identification information transmitted from the information reproducing apparatus, transmitting the related information from the information providing apparatus to the information reproducing apparatus via the network;~~

receiving the related information transmitted from the information providing apparatus via the network in the information reproducing apparatus;

storing the related information received from the information providing apparatus and the identification information in a [[the]] memory of the information reproducing apparatus; and

presenting the related information to a user when the program information is reproduced in the information reproducing apparatus;

wherein the method further comprises the processes of:

transmitting presentation permission request information and the identification information from the information reproducing apparatus to the information providing apparatus via the network if the related information corresponding to identification information of the program information is already stored in the memory;

receiving the presentation permission request information and the identification information transmitted from the information reproducing apparatus via the network in the information providing apparatus;

deciding whether or not presentation of the related information should be permitted based on the presentation permission request information in the information providing apparatus;

deciding whether or not the related information corresponding to the received identification information is updated if it is decided that the presentation should be permitted in the information providing apparatus;

transmitting the presentation permission information from the information providing apparatus to the information reproducing apparatus via the network unless it is decided that the related information is updated ~~if it is decided that the presentation should be permitted~~ in the information providing apparatus; [[and]]

transmitting updated related information together with the presentation permission information from the information providing apparatus to the information reproducing apparatus via the network if it is decided that the related information is updated in the information providing apparatus;

if the presentation permission information is received from the information providing apparatus in the information reproducing apparatus, reading from the memory of the information reproducing apparatus the related information corresponding to presentation permission indicated in the received presentation permission information and presenting ~~present~~ the related information to the user; and

if the updated related information together with the presentation permission information is received from the information providing apparatus, presenting the updated related information instead of the related information stored in the memory to the user.